

Assad hails Soviet-Syrian ties

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad on Wednesday described Syria's relations with the Soviet Union as "strategic, deep and far-reaching." Speaking at an official welcome for Syrian and Soviet communists who made a joint visit last month, he said: "We in Syria decided a long time ago to cooperate with our friends in the Soviet Union and to take part in the struggle for a just peace..." the Syrian News Agency (SANA) reported. Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Tlas and Deputy Commander of the Soviet Air Force General Vladimir Shatalov, who also heads the astronauts training centre, attended the ceremony. Syria's first spaceman, Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammad Faris and his two Soviet colleagues, mission commander Alexander Vostrikov and Alexander Aleksandrov carried out medical and other research during their space flight. SANA said Mr. Assad awarded Col. Faris and his Soviet colleagues the order of "Hero of the Syrian Arab Republic."

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UNIFIL position attacked near Tyre

TEL AVIV (R) — Unidentified guerrillas fired rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) on Wednesday at a post manned by Fijian troops belonging to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), a spokesman for the force said. There were no casualties, spokesman Timor Goksel told Reuters. The RPGs hit the perimeter of the Fijian post in Qana village, southeast of Tyre. The attack appeared to be an attempt to stop the U.N. peacekeeping troops from carrying out security checks, he said.

Pro-Syrian official shot dead in S. Lebanon

SIDON (R) — A pro-Syrian party official was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in South Lebanon on Wednesday, police said. Ali Abdallah, 30, a local official at Lebanon's pro-Syrian Baath Party, was found dead behind the wheel of his car near the town of Nabatiyah. He had been shot in the head. Mr. Abdallah was the second Baath Party official assassinated in the south this year. Hatem Kaoush was killed last June 21 when gunmen ambushed his vehicle near the southern port of Sidon.

Egyptian court jails two West Germans

CAIRO (R) — Two West German businessmen were sentenced to three-year prison terms by a state security court on Wednesday on corruption charges involving senior Egyptian Industry Ministry officials. Dietrich Hafel and Heiner Heckel had been charged with offering bribes worth \$5 million to help win a paper plant tender for their company. Mr. Hafel is in custody, while Mr. Heckel was tried in his absence. The court also fined them about \$10,000 each.

West and East Germany swap spies

BONN (AP) — West Germany on Wednesday exchanged a top-ranking Soviet bloc spy and two other communist spies for two Bonn agents held in East Germany, government sources said. The sources said the West Germans sent back to East Germany master-spies Manfred Rotsch. Mr. Rotsch in September 1984 was sentenced to 8½ years in prison on charges of spying for the Soviet bloc. The sources said two other communist agents, described as "small fish" were sent back to East Germany in addition to the 63-year-old Rotsch. In exchange, the East Germans sent to West Germany 52-year-old Christa-Karin Schumann, an East German physician convicted of spying for Bonn and held prisoner since 1979.

Shultz urges Israel to abandon Lavi

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has sent letters to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Israeli leaders, urging them to scrap development of the over-budget Lavi fighter plane, government cables and radio reports said Wednesday.

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Minesweeping continues in Gulf; new mine found but earlier one 'missing'

Combined agency dispatches

MINESWEEPING operations continued in the waters of an important anchorage point for oil tankers in the Gulf and a fifth mine was spotted in the area on Wednesday, according to officials.

With more minesweeping ships and helicopters on their way to the Gulf, United Arab Emirates (UAE) coast guards admitted on Wednesday that they had lost track of one mine drifting off the port of Fujairah, where 60 tankers are riding at anchor.

Officials in Abu Dhabi told AP the fifth mine was found on Wednesday by a patrol boat in the UAE waters some 14 kilometres off Fujairah. The device was found not far from where a U.S.-operated supertanker, the 274,347-tonne Texaco Caribbean, was damaged by a mine on Monday. The Panamanian flag vessel was carrying oil from Iran's Larak Island loading facility when it hit the mine and Tehran accused the U.S. of planting it.

The area where the mines were found is a major supply replenishment centre for tankers and other vessels moving to and from the Strait of Hormuz, and the staging area for the convoys of Kuwaiti tankers sailing under the U.S. flag and with U.S. navy escort to defend against Iranian attack.

At the UAE port of Khor Fakkan, officials were on Wednesday monitoring an oil slick from the Texaco Caribbean, which has been towed to a point 27 miles off the coast to diminish the danger of pollution to the UAE coastline. They said that, as of Wednesday morning, 7,000-8,000 barrels of oil had leaked into the sea, as much as Iran's Nowruz Oil fields were gushing per day during the Gulf's largest oil spill in 1983.

The sudden mine threat in the previously calm Gulf of Oman has shaken the region's shipping industry, with officials saying the economic impact would be severe if it continues.

Dozens of ships are moored in the Fujairah anchorage at any given time, including tankers making ship-to-ship transfers of oil cargoes.

UAE coast guards, monitoring three mines spotted in the crowded anchorage on Tuesday, said Wednesday they had harmlessly exploded a second mine but had failed to detonate the third after banging away at it with machine-guns and cannon.

"We are missing the mine that was here this morning," an officer told reporters flying over the anchorage in a helicopter. "If you can locate it, please tell us," the officer was quoted as asking the reporters in a dispatch filed by a Reuter correspondent who was aboard the helicopter.

The operation off Fujairah, where two convoys of reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers have assembled before sailing into the Gulf under U.S. naval escort, showed some of the difficulties of coping with the growing menace of mines in the region.

Iran said the United States or its agents had laid the mine which holed Texaco Caribbean and said America was trying to create grounds for greater intervention in the region.

Iran is widely regarded by Western countries as having sown mines in the Gulf but Tehran said it had asked the UAE for permission to search for mines in UAE territorial waters.

Ship insurers have introduced war risk premiums for ships just outside the Gulf.

Following decisions by Britain and France to send minesweepers, at least 17 vessels capable of hunting or dealing with mines will have congregated in the region within weeks, not counting those owned by Iran and Iraq, the adversaries in the seven-year-old Gulf war.

On present intentions, Britain, France, the United States, the Soviet Union — which already has three 650-tonne vessels protecting its merchant shipping — and Saudi Arabia will all have minesweepers in or near the Gulf. Washington will also have eight minehunting helicopters.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi said on Wednesday the action by Britain and France would increase tension in the region. Tehran Radio

(Continued on page 3)

Rome and the Hague seek common WEU stand

ROME (Agencies) — Italy and the Netherlands are abiding by their respective decisions not to send minesweepers to the Gulf, but are seeking an urgent meeting of the Western European Union (WEU) to discuss growing tension in the region.

The Italian Foreign Ministry said that Italy had not changed its position despite a decision by France and Britain to send minesweepers to the area after new mines were discovered in a busy anchorage outside the Gulf. Both Foreign Minister Guido Andreotti and Defence Minister Valerio Zanone said Italy wanted a meeting of the seven-nation WEU to discuss Gulf developments and search for a "coordinated European response."

The Dutch Foreign Ministry said in the Hague that the Netherlands had been sounding out the WEU member states on a similar note. "All WEU countries have been asked" in recent days whether they are willing to hammer out such a common diplomatic initiative for presentation at the U.N., a ministry spokesman told AP.

A cabinet meeting last Friday restated Italy's belief that the situation was best dealt with in the framework of the United Nations. Rome asked the U.N. Security Council to consider an initiative to clear the Gulf of mines.

Mr. Andreotti said then that although Italy shared U.S. concern over tension in the Gulf, it also believed that any initiative taken outside the context of the U.N. could worsen the situation.

Foreign Ministry sources said Mr. Andreotti was in contact several times with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, whose country is currently Security Council president.

The sources noted that unlike Italy, French and British task forces were in the area and that their decision to dispatch minesweepers to support their ships did not apply to Rome.

Italy has four minesweepers which could be sent to the Gulf as part of a possible U.N.-sponsored initiative.

A Dutch foreign ministry spokesman told AP that the immediate aim of the proposed Dutch initiative was to achieve a ceasefire in the seven-year Gulf war.

She added that so far, no formal WEU meeting had been scheduled. The Netherlands is

this year's chairman of the WEU, a low-key diplomatic forum that also includes West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg.

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S. African police arrest leaders of miners on strike

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — The black miners' union said 86 of its officials were arrested Wednesday in the first mass detention since the nation's largest ever legal strike began three days ago.

Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), said police surrounded a union building in Klerksdorp, southwest of Johannesburg, before making the arrests.

"The entire local leadership has been arrested," said Mr. Ramaphosa.

The union earlier said 300 to 400 people at Klerksdorp were loaded into police vans, but Mr. Ramaphosa said he could not confirm that.

Police headquarters said it was preparing a statement on the incident.

On Tuesday night, 16 shaft stewards were arrested, said Marcel Golding, chief union spokesman. He said mine security

forces detained the stewards from two gold fields' mines as they returned from a union meeting.

The arrests coincided with an ultimatum from one of the affected gold mines, Loraine, in the Orange Free State, that it would dismiss about 2,500 miners if they did not report for Wednesday's night shift.

The owners, Anglovaal Mining Company, said they were acting because the NUM was not recognised at Loraine and the strike there was illegal under South African law.

The statement accused the strikers of using intimidation. "Management has been forced to act to protect those employees who wish to continue working," it said.

Golding described the police raid at Klerksdorp as "an attempt to break the strike and to undermine legitimate trade union activities."

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A U.S. television report said a Sandi minesweeper also sailed ahead of the convoy to Kuwait and that half a dozen mines were

Newlyweds leave for honeymoon abroad

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Hussein and Her Royal Highness Princess Alia left Amman on Wednesday for their honeymoon abroad.

Prince Faisal and Princess Alia, who got married on Monday, were seen off by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and royal family members as well as members of the Tabah family. Earlier in the day, the King received a message of congratulations from French President Francois Mitterrand on the occasion of the royal wedding as well as the 35th anniversary of the King's coronation.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Hussein and Her Royal Highness Princess Alia upon their departure on Wednesday for honeymoon abroad (Petra photo)

King receives Saudi and Egyptian messages on current Arab affairs and Mecca violence

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received two messages — one from King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia and the other from President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

dealing with current affairs in the Arab region and the July 31

Arab League and the July 31

Moscow: New attempts being made to destabilise Libya

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Foreign Ministry said Wednesday an outbreak of fighting in the Aouzou border region between Chad and Libya was an attempt to destabilise Tripoli.

"It is clear that the flare-up of hostilities benefits only the neocolonialist aims of certain external forces," the ministry's Information Directorate said in a commentary in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda.

"Another thing is clear: We are witnessing another attempt to destabilise the progressive regime in Tripoli which is following an independent policy."

Troops of Chadian President Hissene Habre advanced into the disputed Aouzou Strip last Saturday. Libyan forces have carried out daily bombing raids which Chad says have extended to 800 kilometres north of the capital N'Djamena.

Both sides insist that their claim to the Aouzou region, occupied by Libya for 14 years, is legitimate and that they fight to defend the territory.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry said the clashes ran counter to the interests of Chad and Libya, and other African countries.

It urged Chad to heed a call by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to renounce the use of force in settling disputes with Libya.

"We support OAU efforts to resolve the dangerous situation in the region and call on all sides directly or indirectly drawn into this conflict to show restraint and political wisdom and end the confrontation without delay," it said.

Libya has suffered a series of military setbacks this year at the hands of Chad government forces

Defence expert testifies in Demjanjuk trial

TEL AVIV (AP) — A defence expert testifying in the John Demjanjuk war crimes trial had difficulty Wednesday in reproducing test results she said made her believe a key piece of prosecution evidence was a forgery.

Prosecutor Michael Shaked produced a video spectral scanner in court to test the competence of American documents experts Edna Robertson, of Panama City, Florida. The machine can distinguish between different inks by measuring their luminescence. Mrs. Robertson has contended two different kinds of inks were

quoted as saying Tuesday by the Libyan News Agency JANA.

Efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the conflict have picked up pace but so far failed to stop the Libyan bombing.

Following a meeting Tuesday between Col. Qadhafi and one of his few African allies, Burkina Faso President Thomas Sankara, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Chad attack was "an insult to Africa and all heads of state of Africa."

Before his departure to the Libyan capital Tripoli, Sankara, who has been active in previous mediation efforts between the two sides sent a message to Mr. Hahne urging him to cease hostilities and seek a peaceful solution with Libya.

OUA Secretary-General Ide Oumarou, on a visit to Ivory Coast, called Tuesday for renewed peace moves and offered to mediate to achieve a ceasefire.

Gahonese President Omar Bongo, chairman of a special OAU committee trying to resolve the Aouzou dispute, also urged that any escalation of the conflict be avoided.

Libya, however, has boycotted all meetings of Bongo's committee and stated repeatedly that its claim to Aouzou is not a matter for arbitration.

In Paris, French Defence Minister Andre Giraud said the dispute was likely to last a long time given what he called the failure until now of OAU mediation efforts.

The only casualty figures available thus far are for Saturday's battle in which Chad said 650 Libyans were killed and 147 others captured.

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used in stamps appearing on an ID card issued in Demjanjuk's name and a photograph on the card. She said this supported her conclusion it is a forgery.

"This is not what I saw when I performed my tests. We're not seeing the same image here, your honour," Mrs. Robertson said when the machine at first produced a video image showing the stamps as a bright luminescent circle on both the photo and card.

Earlier Wednesday, Levine said Mrs. Robertson's contention that the card is a forgery did not stand up to scientific scrutiny.

She fiddled with the buttons and eventually produced an image which showed a slight difference in luminescence in the photograph and paper.

"This is not the brilliant contrast I observed earlier... but I can see a dimmer vision of the difference," Mrs. Robertson said.

Earlier Wednesday, Levine said Mrs. Robertson's contention that the card is a forgery did not stand up to scientific scrutiny.

Presiding Judge Dov Levine instructed her to operate the machine herself. Mrs. Robertson

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French minesweepers to reach Gulf in 2 weeks

PARIS (R) — Two French minesweepers, due to sail for the troubled Gulf region, will take two weeks to join up with an aircraft-carrier task force now in the Indian Ocean, the Defence Ministry said Wednesday.

A defence Ministry spokesman said the minesweepers Gargilano and Cantho, accompanied by the supply ship Garonne, would set off from the Mediterranean port of Toulon in the next few days.

France announced Tuesday it would send the three-ship squadron to reinforce the aircraft-carrier task force, already on its way towards the Gulf. Britain also said it would send minesweepers to the region.

The spokesman said the three extra ships would bring the French presence in the Gulf region to 11 ships.

The four-ship task force led by

the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, despatched from Toulon on July 30, was in the Gulf of Aden, the spokesman said.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister greets Yugoslav ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Al Khatib on Wednesday received a Yugoslav Ambassador in Amman Todor Bojadzievski. They discussed bilateral cooperation especially in the field of information and cultural exchange and ways of activating tourist cooperation. Mr. Khatib also on Wednesday received a Bulgarian cultural delegation currently on a visit to Jordan. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations especially in the cultural field in light of an executive programme for cultural and scientific cooperation between Jordan and Bulgaria which was signed here on Wednesday.

Zarqa locates, destroys tainted food

ZARQA (Petra) — Zarqa Municipality on Wednesday destroyed unspecified quantities of food supplies and canned food after it was found they were unfit for human consumption. The chairman of the municipality's committee said the tainted food was found during search operations conducted by teams from the municipality. These teams are conducting their duty on a regular basis and will from now on order the closure of stores whose owners tend to violate the regulations, and refer proprietors to court, he said. The chairman also urged members of the public to report any contaminated food bought from local stores.

CBJ takes part in int'l banking seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has taken part in an advanced course on banks and monetary policies in developing countries held recently at University of London under the supervision of Harvard University. CBJ executive director for banking control Ahmad Abu Obeid, who represented the central bank during the course, said that the two-month course discussed developing countries' policies in the field of exchange rates, interest rates and currency control. The course, he added, emphasised the need for international cooperation among authorities to find common concepts for control currency.

TCC to introduce modern phone services in rural areas

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) will introduce modern automatic telephone service to some 78 towns and villages in Karak and Tafileh governorates and the Southern Jordan Valley before the end of this year, TCC Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail announced Wednesday. The project will serve some 12,000 subscribers in the two governorates, he said. The move, Mr. Ismail added, is within the government's plans to provide modern automatic telephone services to rural areas whose populations do not exceed 500.

Turkish envoy supports Jordan's peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Turkey's ambassador to Jordan Samih Balsen on Wednesday voiced his country's support for Jordan's efforts to achieve a just and durable solution for the Middle East question.

The ambassador, speaking at a meeting with Foreign Minister Secretary General Nabil Al Nimeri, said his country supports the idea of an international conference to find a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

During the meeting, Jordanian-Turkish relations were reviewed and both sides exchanged

Jordanian women attend international conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-member delegation from the National Federation of Business and Professional Women of Jordan (NFBPW) was among 1,200 women delegates who attended the 18th Congress of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, from August 2-7, in The Hague, the Netherlands, according to a NFBPW press release.

The Jordanian delegation was headed by Mrs. Hind A. Jaber and included Reem Damen, Layla Burqan, Layla Murad and Rinad Ayyad. These delegates have actively participated in the overall business sessions and the various committee workshops.

King receives Egyptian and Saudi messages

(Continued from page 1)

Aug. 23 at Syria's request).

Egyptian message

Earlier Wednesday, King Hussein received at the Royal Court Dr. Atef Obeid, Egypt's minister of Prime Ministry affairs and minister of state for administrative development. The minister conveyed to the King a message from President Mubarak dealing with current Arab affairs, the situation in the Gulf and the Iranian riots in Mecca. The meeting was in the presence of Prince Hassan and Mr. Rifai.

Upon leaving Amman for

home later Dr. Obeid said that the message was part of the ongoing consultations and coordination between King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak. The message underlined the importance of enhancing solidarity among Islamic nations and confronting common threats facing the Arab nation, Dr. Obeid said. He said that King Hussein sent greetings to Mr. Mubarak and his appreciation and support of the Egyptian president's call for an extraordinary Islamic summit meeting to discuss current affairs in the Arab area.

In Cairo, the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood on Wednesday blamed unspecified "enemies of Islam" for the riots in Mecca. The brotherhood, outlawed

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A Hasty Decision?

IT IS surprising to hear that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is withdrawing its membership in four Arab and international organisations as part of a government policy to cut expenditures in the face of declining oil revenues. The UAE decision comes at a time when Arabs are making steady progress in bolstering inter-Arab cooperation in non-political affairs and are in dire need of further coordination and enhanced presence in the international scene with one united voice. Above everything, the decision casts doubts on the continued membership in the four organisations of other Arab states which are not as fortunate as the UAE in financial resources — countries such as Jordan which seeks to enhance coordination in every field with the firm belief that joint Arab action is the answer to the problems plaguing the Arab World.

Notwithstanding the nature and level of effectiveness of the four organisations the UAE is leaving — the Gulf Postal Federation, the Arab Postal Federation, the International Organisation for Civil Protection and the Arab International Organisation for Social Defence Against Crimes — the very fact that these organisations were created with the intention of boosting joint Arab action should have dissuaded the UAE from its decision.

The move by Abu Dhabi also raises the prospect of other Arab countries reconsidering their membership in and financial commitment to various Arab organisations. We hope against hope that such an eventuality will not follow, but the fact remains there is very little anyone can do when a sovereign state decides that it is in its best interests to leave any given pan-Arab or international organisation or decides to cut down its financial contribution. We can only appeal against such actions with the hope that considerations over Arab unity and solidarity would prevail. The issue should be seen in the light of the fact that for a country like the UAE, the financial commitment inherent in continued membership in the organisations it has decided to leave represents only a tiny fraction of its revenues while for some other countries it represents a heavy burden and sacrifice for the sake of joint Arab action.

We call on the UAE to reconsider its decision and not to allow itself to set a precedent for actions that would gnaw away at the Arab feeling of one joint family which should work together to serve the higher interests of the Arab Nation.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A wasted effort from start

CHARLES Hill, an envoy of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, has had a brief visit to Israel where he held talks with Israeli leaders including Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Hill claimed that he made the visit to hear Israel's views about the prospect of an international peace conference. It is clear that Hill was trying to cover his failure to persuade Israeli leaders of the idea of the conference, and to deny rumours about Washington's new ideas concerning the proposed conference. He said that he met no failure because he did not bring with him any proposals requiring any results. Hill said that he was reporting Israeli leaders' ideas to his superiors in Washington. We are surprised to hear this statement because as it is known that nothing has changed in the positions of the United States and Israel and there has been no development on the international scene that requires a change in their policies towards the Middle East and the proposed conference. Hill could have saved himself the trouble of going to Israel to hear the Israeli leaders' views because they are well known to all and they are adamant in rejecting the idea of a peace conference. Israeli leaders continue to seek direct negotiations with each of the Arab states so that they can ensure that no pressure will be placed on Israel to give up occupied Arab land. Whatever Washington says it will not convince anyone that it can go one further step and convince the Israelis of the need to respect the international will and the principles of justice and peace.

Al Dustour: Call of reason

A meeting by Arab foreign ministers scheduled for Saturday can be seen as an all-out Arab response to the call of reason. Arab countries are compelled by the serious situation and the grave events in their region to meet together and study joint plans and work out a joint strategy for confronting all eventualities in the ongoing Gulf conflict. It is quite unreasonable for the Arab League to remain passive to the various events and developments on the diplomatic and military scenes in the Gulf, and should be made to exercise its important role in helping Arab states to confront the common challenges and threats. Hence we regard the coming meeting as a means for charting a pan-Arab strategy that can not only help re-establish solidarity among Arab countries but also help end Iran's aggression on the Arab Nation. The scheduled meeting represents a touch stone for the determination of the Arab Nation to confront the difficult circumstances with courage and unity. The meeting is a chance for the Arab leaders to settle their internal differences and disputes and work together for the benefit of their nation and its future generations. We welcome the holding of the foreign ministers meeting and hope that it will meet with success.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S. and its pledges

U.S. envoy Charles Hill has conveyed to the leaders of the Jewish state Washington's total commitment to keep Israeli superiority in military might over that or all Arab countries put together. Hill conveyed this view to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in a bid to persuade him to accept the idea of an international Middle East peace conference. We cannot understand the meaning of this American pledge if the United States is really concerned with bringing about peace between Israel and its neighbours. How can peace be based on military and technological superiority of one party over the other? The United States has made the pledge while well knowing that Israel continues to reject all peace bids and continues to scoff at all United Nations Security Council resolutions which call for peace and the return of the rights of the Palestinian people. Had it not been for such pledges from Washington, Israel would not have maintained its present aggressive policies against the Arab Nation and would not have rejected the idea of the peace conference. By doing so the U.S. is creating an opportune atmosphere for Israel to persist in its present position and continue to turn down any initiative for the establishment of peace and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. Such American pledges can only help to dissipate all efforts for peace and perpetuate Israel's occupation of Arab land.

Saudi Arabia — hostage to events in the Gulf

The uneasy relationship between Riyadh and Tehran has been made more untenable by the recent bloodshed in Mecca. Andrew Gowers and Joan Wucher King analyse the impact of the riots.

THE recent unprecedented violence in Mecca threatens to shatter the uneasy modus vivendi which Saudi Arabia and Iran have developed in the last few years.

Iran's vows to avenge the 275 or more Iranian pilgrims who were killed in a riot have resurrected fears first sparked by the Iranian revolution in 1979. They have raised fresh questions about the balance of power in the region, and in particular about the close ties between Saudi Arabia and the U.S.

The 1979 revolution was a cause of immense concern for the Saudis. It destabilised a country occupying a vital geographical and political position; moreover, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's brand of radical ideology was designed, from the outset, to appeal to Muslims throughout the region. Although its allure is obvious among the Shi'ite communities of the Gulf — particularly strong in Bahrain, Dubai, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia's oil-producing eastern province — it has had undoubted side-effects

Iraq in the Gulf war.

There have been periodic efforts at destabilisation. Disturbances in Saudi Arabia's predominantly Shi'ite eastern province in late-1979 coincided with the seizure of the Grand Mosque in Mecca by Islamic militants. Although the latter incident was in all probability unrelated to Iran, it added to the general atmosphere of unease. There has also been trouble every year during the Hajj, in which Iranians tend to be the biggest single national contingent.

The smaller Gulf states have been even more prone to Iranian mischief-making. In 1981, an Iranian-inspired coup attempt was uncovered in Bahrain, whose population is believed to be up to 80 per cent Shi'ite. And Kuwait has suffered a wave of acts of sabotage in the last few years, including an attempt on the life of the ruler, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in 1985. In all of these, Iran's influence was either evident or strongly suspected.

The Iranians lambasted the Arab Gulf states' ties with the West, and especially with the U.S. — a sensitive point, given the degree of security cooperation between Washington and Riyadh and the widespread hostility in the region towards American support for Israel. They have questioned the Islamic credentials of the Saudi leadership, which amounts to the same thing as casting doubt on its political legitimacy. And they have been infuriated by the extensive financial and logistical support offered by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to

other. In June 1984, two Iranian Phantom jets were shot down by Saudi F-15s as they attempted to violate Saudi airspace. It was a crucial test of Riyadh's deterrent capabilities; no further incursions by Iran have been reported to this day.

The same year also saw a resumption of high-level contacts between the two, when Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, paid his first visit to Tehran since the revolution. There has also been trouble every year during the Hajj, in which Iranians tend to be the biggest single national contingent.

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The Saudis have so far shown themselves able to fend off Iranian threats on the one hand and to develop a wary working relationship with Tehran on the

ing production and letting prices tumble, and Iran agreed to refrain from attacking Saudi oil tankers.

Domestically, the Saudis have made strenuous efforts to meet the ayatollah's religious and political challenge. They have devoted a good deal of attention and money to improving facilities for the Hajj, and King Fahd has gone out of his way to underline his Islamic status. Late last year, he decreed that he should no longer be addressed as His Majesty — since majesty is an attribute of God — but that he should instead be called Custodian of the Two Holy Places, Mecca and Medina.

In the Shi'ite heartland of the eastern province, the atmosphere is reported to have improved markedly in the last two years, since the king's 35-year-old son Mohammad ibn Fahd replaced the ageing hardliner, Abdul Mohsen ibn Jalawi, as governor. The hard-working Mohammad has released significant numbers of Shi'ite prisoners, and is trying to find them jobs; the government has also been spending large amounts of money on facilities such as schools and hospitals

in the region. Diplomats in the kingdom say that Shi'ites are still not entirely happy, and that a general "mood of dissidence" still prevails, among them, but they are neither defecting to Iran nor causing much trouble at home.

The latest Iranian threats, then, seem unlikely to cause much of an upsurge of political discontent within the country. In the immediate future, they are more likely to reinforce Saudi Arabia's innate caution about being publicly associated with the U.S.

The Iranians have made it clear that they regard the events in Mecca as the fruit of collaboration between the Saudis and the Americans. While the Saudis themselves vigorously deny such charges, they are sensitive indeed about the hefty presence of foreign military advisers in the kingdom and have consistently refused the U.S. basing or equipment prepositioning rights there.

But however much the Saudis want to keep a low profile, there is no doubt that they are now more obviously in the position of hostages to events in the Gulf — Financial times feature.

Pakistan is still struggling with foreign and domestic issues 40 years after birth

By Mohammad Aftab
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — As Pakistan celebrates its 40th birthday this week, the country faces shaky relations with hostile neighbours and a dispute with its major ally — the United States — over nuclear policy.

Independence came Aug. 14, 1947, with the partitioning of India after 200 years of British colonial rule.

But now, it's the United States and the Soviet Union rather than the British, who play major roles in Islamabad's foreign policy. Relations with Moscow are antagonistic because Pakistan feels threatened by the 115,000 Soviet troops in neighbouring Afghanistan, while the Pakistani government generally enjoys a close friendship with Washington.

Pakistan has been aiding anti-communist Afghan guerrillas since 1978, but this has been followed by terrorist bombings aimed at civilians and Afghan refugees. In addition, Soviet-Afghan forces have bombed Pakistani border areas this year.

Terrorist bombings have killed at least 160 people since January in the major Pakistani cities of Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Peshawar and Quetta. Hundreds more have been wounded.

Islamabad blames them on agents of Afghanistan's government. The alleged Soviet-supported subversion allegedly is aimed at preventing American weapons from going through Pakistan to the Afghan insurgents.

Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq recently told parliament he had no intention of cutting help to the Afghan resistance.

Zia insisted the nation would fulfill our Islamic obligation of continuing to play host to more than three million Afghan refugees camping in Pakistan.

Abdul Wali Khan, a pro-Moscow opposition leader who leads an influential regional organisation called the Awami (Peoples) National Party, warns that Pakistan could get crushed in the mid-term of 1987.

Zia completed 10 years of rule on July 5 — 8½ years of that under martial law. The political opposition, grouped under the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD), has failed to make any real show of strength.

The MRD demands that Zia quit his presidential post and position as chief of the army.

Zia, 63, says he will complete his five-year term, which expires on March 23, 1990. And that may not be the end.

An official close to Zia, speaking on condition of anonymity, admits Zia "has presidential ambitions even beyond 1990; very definitely."

Despite sharing common goals with the United States over limiting Soviet influence in the region, ties with Washington are strained on a different front. Washington suspects Islamabad is pushing ahead to manufacture a nuclear weapon to challenge the nuclear armament capacity of subcontinent rival India.

Pakistan strongly denies nuclear ambitions but refuses to allow international inspection of its nuclear power facilities.

"We have reiterated on countless occasions that our nuclear plans are peaceful and exclusively devoted to developing this technology for generation of electricity," Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said in early August.

While U.S. President Ronald Reagan is not pressuring Islamabad on the bomb issue, some congressmen in Washington are dissatisfied over Pakistan's response. A congressional panel in August recommended a 105-day suspension of aid to Pakistan, starting Oct. 1.

At stake is \$67 million for the upcoming fiscal year, of which \$29 million is military sales cre-



Mohammad Zia Ul Haq

Black miners' strike could affect entire anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa

By David Crary
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — The black miners' strike that began this week is an unparalleled challenge of South Africa's dominant industry that could have political repercussions that echo far beyond the mine shafts.

Wages and benefits ostensibly are the issues, but the outcome likely will influence the entire anti-apartheid movement in the months and years ahead.

By calling at least 230,000 miners, perhaps many more, out on strike in quest of a 30 per cent pay raise, the militant National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) is risking much of the clout it has acquired since its formation in 1982.

If the strike succeeds, other black unions probably will follow with similar demands, accelerating the "living wage" campaign which black labour leaders launched this year in hopes of redistributing more of the wealth held by South Africa's five million whites.

It could put the union at the centre of a very major thrust.

The government, which legalised black unions in 1979, has kept a low profile since the strike started Sunday, saying police are not intervening and depicting the dispute as solely between workers and management.

Because of the state-of-emergency crackdown on activists, unions have emerged as virtually the only unbanned black organisations with the power to threaten the status quo on a nationwide basis.

"A demand for a living wage is, by implication, a political demand," said Eddie Webster, a labour expert who teaches at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. "It's aimed at what is seen as the unacceptable inequality of wealth in South Africa."

He said the union and the mine owners are taking tough stances to test the limits of each other.

"It's in the balance at the moment," Webster said in an interview Tuesday. "If people start going back to work, the message will be that yet again the union can't do it. If more miners go out,

striking at 44 gold and coal mines.

The mine owners' Chamber of Mines, which has unilaterally increased 15 per cent to 23.4 per cent wage increases, says 230,000 workers are on strike at 31 mines.

Neither side has offered estimates of the strike's effect on production. But Anglo American Corporation, which produced 39 per cent of South Africa's gold output last year, says 230,000 miners are seriously affected, indicating that overall the strike may be disrupting more than half the national gold production.

South Africa is the world's leading gold producer and gold supplies about 60 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings. Thus far, the strike has not triggered a rise in gold prices, and analysts say the walkout would have to continue in full force for several weeks before the South African economy would suffer significantly.

The Chamber of Mines reported in June that the mining industry increased its earnings by 13.9 per cent last year to 29.5 billion rand (about \$14.7 billion). Mining executives contend that

their current wage offer is generous. They try to depict themselves as a progressive force which respects the miners' union and supports political reforms.

The chamber's outgoing president, Peter Gush, told his colleagues recently: "We have a duty to press and encourage the government to implement the socio-political changes necessary for an environment in which individuals can realise their optimum potential and business can operate with maximum efficiency."

The chamber argues that black miners are now among the highest paid blacks in the country, earning about 500 rand (\$245) a month. But this sum is only one-fifth the average white miner's wage, and black workers generally are forced to live in single-sex hostels far from their families.

"The workers' struggle in the mines cannot be separated from the struggle in the community," the union said in a resolution adopted at its annual congress in February. "Apartheid and capitalism are two inseparable evils that must be smashed."

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Two years after JAL crash, tragedy lingers on

By Janet Snyder
Reuter

TOKYO — Two years after the worst single plane crash in history, Japanese officials are still trying to decide who to blame and the relatives of most victims are still awaiting compensation.

On Aug. 12, 1985 a Japan Air Lines (JAL) Boeing 747 jet on a flight from Tokyo to Osaka slammed into a heavily wooded mountainside in central Japan, killing 520 people on board.

Four people survived: two young girls and two women. All were seriously injured, and one girl, Keiko Kawakami, was so traumatised that she is unable to speak, a JAL spokesman said.

JAL announced this week that two of its former technicians were under investigation in connection with the crash on Mount Osutaka, north of Tokyo.

Last week, families of seven victims filed one billion yen (\$6.7 million) suit against JAL and Boeing in Tokyo district court.

A Japanese Ministry of Transport report in June said the crash was the result of faulty repairs by

the manufacturer Boeing and inadequate inspection by ministry inspectors.

Boeing agrees that incorrect repairs by its technicians contributed to the crash.

The plane scraped its tail on landing at Osaka airport in 1978. Boeing engineers carried out repairs to the aircraft and government inspectors gave their approval without inspecting the work, the ministry report said.

The tail section blew off in mid-flight two years ago, causing the crash.

Three suits filed by a total of 93 bereaved relatives are still pending against the two companies in Osaka and Seattle, where Boeing has its head office.

A JAL spokesman said of the 505 passengers killed, only 157 compensation cases have been completed. The airline has refused to disclose the amounts awarded.

"The rest are either under negotiation or litigation," the spokesman said.

The effort to apportion blame continues, with police in Gunma prefecture, site of the crash, stepping up a criminal investigation.

British barristers debate donning wigs

By Leslie Shepherd
The Associated Press

LONDON — British barristers are contemplating whether they want to retain their centuries-old courtroom tradition of wearing flowing black robes and horsehair wigs replete with ringlets and plumes.

Proposed changes to the barristers' code of conduct would make the traditional garb optional and would also take a tiny step towards allowing advertising by the profession.

Judges and barristers — the specially qualified lawyers who can plead before Britain's higher courts — began wearing elaborate wigs along with the rest of proper society in the late 17th century.

Besides the speaker of the House of Commons and parliamentary clerks, they were the only group to continue wearing wigs when others felt they'd gone out of fashion.

The code of conduct for the Bar Council, which represents the 5,500 barristers in England and Wales, now says wigs shall be worn at all times by men and women along with dark clothes and gowns.

A Bar Council spokesman, who was unidentified in keeping with British custom, said there

are no formal penalties for appearing in court bareheaded or dressed in bright, casual clothes.

However, judges can, and do, verbally reprimand those who flout the code too often and sometimes ask them to leave the courtroom to don proper attire.

A special committee of the Bar Council has been working for more than a year to modernise the code of conduct but any revisions must be approved at the council's annual meeting next month or a special meeting planned for next spring, the spokesman said. Changes would also have to be adopted by the judges.

"Personally, I don't think the proposals will win much favour. I think we all enjoy dressing up," said barrister Nicholas Wilcox, after browsing through a Loodoo store that sells handmade barristers' wigs, ceremonial wigs for judges and other courtroom clothing.

"People rather like the formality of it," Wilcox added. "It tends to lend some authenticity to the proceedings, and I think people generally tend to behave better as a result."

The traditional barrister's wig has swept up bangs, is covered in tight ringlets and has two small pigtails which dangle over the cape of the neck.

Wilcox said the only drawback

to the wigs is that most of them are too hot in the summer.

"Because they're made of horsehair, they don't let the air in," he said.

"You can imagine the problems. All too few courts are air-conditioned. Although the more generous judges allow you to take them off, there are others who are sticklers, so you try to make your case through a wall of perspiration falling down your face."

Wilcox said a barrister's wig costs about £190 (\$297). He said most barristers own only one: "You want to get it absolutely filthy so you look like you've been around a while."

Wilcox and the Bar Council spokesman noted it is becoming common for judges and barristers to remove their wigs and robes when young children are involved in the court proceedings.

"Last year there was a child abuse case where the child had to appear in court and the judge suggested that they should all remove their wigs and gowns in order to make it easier for the child and less intimidating — make them more like mommy and daddy," the spokesman said.

The revised code of conduct would also permit a very limited form of advertising for barristers.

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Opium-smoking — a way of life in Thai hills

By Julie Self
National Geographic

CHIANG RAI, Thailand — The village chief lay stretched on his side less than a metre from the flickering flame. His glassy eyes concentrated on the tiny, dark ball of sticky opium that he rolled between his fingers and carefully stuffed into a pipe.

Following his death, the ministry asked police to halt their investigation of the other three and a police spokesman said they were no longer being investigated.

"The police have been following this thing doggedly, because they feel they must find someone to blame," said a source close to the investigation.

As the official inquiry grinds on, the families of the victims were planning to mark the second anniversary of the worst day of their lives quietly.

Some 240 relatives were expected to make the arduous climb up Mount Osutaka to observe a moment of silence, offer prayers for the repose of souls and flowers at the spot where each victim is believed to have died.

Every weekend since April, JAL employees have guided — sometimes even carried — bereaved relatives up the mountain to pay their respects to the dead.

The simple, traditional lifestyle of the Akha people gave the impression that theirs was an ancient settlement, but in fact they are newcomers to Thailand. Their first village was established in 1903. Today the tribe numbers more than 24,000.

The Akhas are one of six major, distinct tribes in the remote hill country of northern Thailand. While five of the major hill tribes were virtually nonexistent here a century ago, the total tribal population is now estimated at 500,000.

The tribes account for less than one per cent of Thailand's

population, but their numbers have quadrupled in the last 35 years. The Akha population alone increased from about 6,200 in 1964 to more than 24,000 today, owing largely to migration from Burma.

Nevertheless, it is still possible to find poppy plants in abundance along footpaths. Much of the opium produced in this area, which is part of the notorious Golde Triangle, reaches the West, most of it in the form of heroin. A significantly greater amount of the Golde Triangle's opium is produced in neighbouring Burma.

The tribes and their traditional lifestyles have flourished largely because of their remoteness. Much of the region is inaccessible to modern transport, so the tribes move freely across borders without detection. The government has had a hard time keeping track of the hill-tribe population. In the early 1980s, it was estimated that no more than 30 per cent had citizenship papers.

The mobile nature of their societies also makes them flexible. The Akha, for instance, move their villages every 15 to 20 years because their slash-and-burn cultivation methods force them to seek new land.

Villages tend to break up because of lack of good cropland, disputes, harassment by bandits, or a quick succession of deaths. It does not take long to build a new group of huts.

Some of the worst problems in these northern forests — smuggling, banditry, and the sometimes violent opium trading of former Nationalist Chinese soldiers holed up in the hills — are not created by the tribes.

But the tribes do present problems for the Thai government.

Their shifting cultivation methods contribute to deforestation and deterioration of water-sheds. Opium production and addiction persist. Educational and health services are poor. The tribes lack a sense of national identity.

In 1976, the government said it would integrate the hill tribes into the Thai state, although tribal members would retain the right to practise their religions and maintain their cultures.

Agencies have attempted to work with the tribes. The Tribal Research Institute employs a team of specialists who make regular visits to the villages. In addition to collecting data, the institute recommends ways to improve village life, from creating new educational programmes to installing plastic pipe to carry water to mountaintop settlements.

On a hill known as Poppy Mountain in northern Thailand, Lisu women scrape dark, gummy opium from poppy capsules. A few crude pots, simple chemicals, and a source of fresh water are all that is needed to convert raw opium into morphine base, from which illicit heroin is made. The Lisu, like the Akha, Hmong, Yao and other tribes of Asia's Golden Triangle, cling to a traditional lifestyle. Their lives are dangerous and difficult (National Geographic photo).

sale, and consumption of opium in 1958; recently, the government declared renewed efforts to crack down on opium by burning poppy fields.

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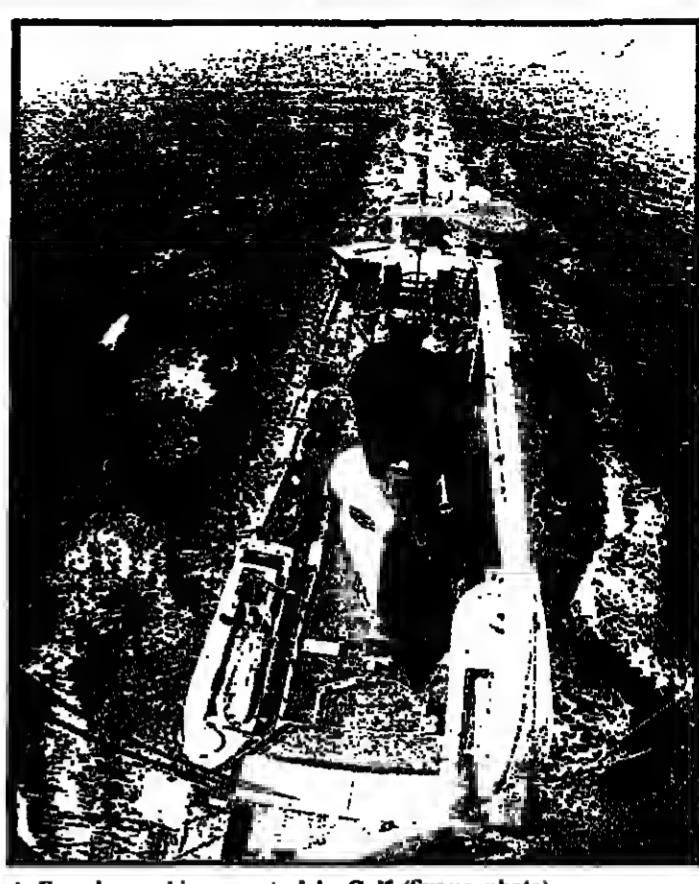
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A French warship on patrol in Gulf (Sipa photo)

17 minesweepers in Gulf or heading there

LONDON (R) — The decisions

Britain: Four 675-tonne Hunt-class minesweepers will leave in about a week's time to protect Britain's three-ship armada naval patrol which accompanies British-registered ships in the southern part of the Gulf. The minesweepers are due to arrive in about five weeks.

France: Two minesweepers will be sent to join the aircraft carrier Clemenceau and three escort ships now in the Gulf of Aden. Officials did not specify when they would arrive.

Saudi Arabia: The Saudis have four U.S.-built MSC 322 coastal minesweepers of 320 tonnes each. Two of these were used in July to clear mines from waters off the Kuwaiti oil tanker terminal of Mina Al Ahmadi, but the Saudis have recently said they would not let them be used outside Saudi territorial waters.

Iran offered on Tuesday to help sweep the Gulf of Oman of mines. According to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, Iran has tow 320-tonne ex-U.S. MSC 292/268 coastal minesweepers, while Iraq has five Soviet-made ocean-going minesweepers — two T-43 class of 580 tonnes each and three Yevgenya class of 80 tonnes each.

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CHEESE FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY



Nigeria collects two sprint golds on final day of All Africa Games

NAIROBI (R) — Nigeria quickly collected two sprint golds on the closing day of the All Africa Games but their fastest man was sitting helplessly in the stands as Kenya grabbed the men's 200 metres.

Chidi Imoh, who holds the African record in the event with 20.36 seconds but curiously was not registered to compete for Nigeria, watched helplessly as Simon Kipkemboi raced home first in a slow 20.90.

"I thought they would run fast," was Imoh's Morose com-

African champion Mary Onyali then led a Nigerian clean sweep in the 200 metres in 22.66 seconds.

In the opening event in front of 60,000 spectators packed into Kasarani Stadium, Jude Lefou won the men's 110 metres hurdles to gain a first track and field medal for Mauritius.

The final of 14 finals began with an impressive display of taekwondo martial arts by Kenyan police and men of the general service unit.

Their colleagues on duty

mounted a massive security operation at the stadium for the arrival of Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi.

The action will continue late into the night since the third place play-off and final of the popular soccer competition will follow the athletics.

The matches were postponed when one of the semi-finals, between Kenya and Malawi, had to be replayed a day late because of floodlight failure.

Kenya was later playing African soccer kings Egypt for the gold medal while Malawi was scheduled to face Cameroun for the bronze.

League president warns against isolation of English soccer

LONDON (R) — The president of the English Football League, Philip Carter, has warned his 92 clubs that they face a season of trial and error on a knife edge over their return to European competition.

"I honestly feel that if we have a series of confrontations anywhere it will take us out of Europe for a very long time. They will close the book on the subject," Carter said on Tuesday night.

English clubs have been banned from European Club competitions indefinitely since the death of 39 people as a result of the May 29, 1985 riots at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels during the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus.

"Everything was working except my serve," Evert said. "I think 7 p.m. (pd) is a tough time to play. You're playing through dusk and I lost the ball. But I think Robin did too. Let's just say my serve was not up to par."

White, 23, of San Jose, California, had three break points in that game and went to deuce four times until Evert, 32, was able to hold serve.

"The difference in the second set compared to the first set was that I was aiming for the line instead of the middle of the court," White said. "I made her play the ball more."

Evert said although some games were close, she was in control. "At 5-2 in the second (set), maybe I took it for granted I'd win. I let her back in," Evert said. "It's hard to play her. She hit some good balls. She hit some bad balls. I'm glad it did get close. It tests you more."

In an earlier match, second-seeded Steffi Graf of West Germany overpowered Terry Phelps 6-3, 6-2.

Evert advances in Slims tourney

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (AP) — Third-seeded Chris Evert ran into a little trouble before defeating unseeded Robin White 6-0, 7-5 on Tuesday in a second-round match in the \$250,000 Virginia Slims of Los Angeles tournament.

The first set was one-sided for Evert of Boca Raton, Florida, who only ran into difficulty in the third game when she double-faulted twice.

"I was just trying to hang in there because anything can happen in this game," Sznajder said after winning Tuesday. "I've been in a lot of games where things turn around if you keep at it."

"That's what I tried to do and it paid off for me."

Earlier in the day, Wally Masur of Australia defeated Canada's Martin 7-5, 6-1, in the second round; while South Africa's Christo Steya defeated Bill Cowan of Canada 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 in the first round.

Sznajder tied the final set at 5-3, and then fell behind before rallying to win the final two

Sznajder edges Doohan to advance in tennis players international

MONTREAL (AP) — Unseeded Andrew Sznajder of Canada came from a three-game final set deficit to upset 16th seeded Peter Doohan of Australia in the first round of the \$300,000 Player's International Tennis tournament.

"He had a biased crowd behind him and that intimidated the umpires, ad I think affected some of the line calls."

Number 15-seed Jimmy Arias and Peter Lundgren advanced to the third round by winning their matches in straight sets.

Anas stopped West German Michael Westphal 6-2, 6-4, while Sweden's Lundgren beat Sammy Giannimalva 7-5, 6-1.

Opening-round matches between U.S. players saw Richard Matsuzaki top Greg Holmes 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, Derrick Rostagno beat Larry Scott 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) and Todd Witsken defeat Bill Scanlon.

Kelly Evernden of New Zealand won his first-round against American John Ross, 6-3, 7-5, while 11th-seeded Johan Kriek beat Leach 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 7-5.

"He played horribly in the first set, and he was a bit lucky to get out of the second set," said Kriek.

Rosario retains WBA lightweight title after 'dirtiest fight' with Nazario

CHICAGO (AP) — Edwin Rosario has successfully defended his World Boxing Association (WBA) lightweight title, but the eight-round victory over Juan Nazario didn't come easy.

The champ revealed bite marks in his shoulder and complained about punches to the kidneys. He called it "the dirtiest fight I've been involved in."

"I knew this fight would be a

brawl because we both know each other so well from sparring in San Juan," Rosario said after the match before 2,300 fans at the University of Illinois-Chicago pavilion.

Nazario had visions of winning his first title fight after 18 straight victories. But that dream faded when he hit the canvas after absorbing a left hook to the neck from Rosario, 26-2.

S. Korea brushes aside the northern Olympic offer

TOKYO (Agencies) — North Korea said it was "drastically slashing" its demand that to stage eight events of the 1988 Olympics, and would settle for five full events and part of another.

It insisted, however, that one of the full events be the Olympic soccer tournament, from which its own team has been barred for not showing up for regional qualifying matches.

A source close to the Olympic movement expressed doubt Tuesday that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) would

accept North Korea's latest proposal because of the country's insistence on hosting the entire soccer tournament.

North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, said Chin Chung Guk, vice chairman of North Korea's Olympic Committee, outlined his nation's new position and urged a meeting with South Korea and the IOC within a month to discuss it.

North Korea has charged that South Korea hopes to use the 1988 Olympics, awarded by the IOC to Seoul, to reinforce its independent position, hampering reunification of the Koreas.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.5695/5705	U.S. dollars	1.3303/08
One U.S. dollar	1.8975/80	Canadian dollar	2.1375/85
	1.5775/85	West German marks	39.44/47
	6.3250/3300	Dutch guilders	1375/1376
	151.35/45	Swiss francs	6.5935/83
	6.9020/7070	Belgian francs	7.2780/2830
One ounce of gold	460.80/461.30	French francs	
		Italian lira	
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — London equities lost some of their earlier gains as Wall Street opened 12 points lower on profit-taking after the recent gains, dealers said.

Earlier shares moved ahead strongly, prompted by Tuesday's U.K. balance of payments data, which was not as bad as most had expected, and by another record close on the New York market.

At 1430 GMT, the FTSE 100 index stood 15 points higher at 2,290.4 after, reaching a high of 2,301 around midday. One equity dealer said, "this fairly sharp reaction to Wall Street just shows how brittle the market is ahead of a lot more important (U.K.) economic data to come."

The stock market has been helped this week by U.K. economic data which has not produced the shocks many had expected to follow last week's surprise one point jump in U.K. base rates. Many believed there was bad news on the way, but so far producer prices and the balance of payments have held few surprises. Operators remain cautious, however, ahead of key inflation indicators later this week.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will be overflowing with new ideas, and eager to pioneer new avenues of expression. A little bit of enthusiasm will get you the support necessary to make these ideas work.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Good results can be gleaned by attending a social function this evening and seeing many of your friends.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Seek the information you need at the source, in whatever area it may lie. Spend the evening alone with your mate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Spend as much time as possible with your family and friends. Avoid a person who is jealous of your position.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) People around you will be unusually receptive to requests for favors if you're polite. Drive carefully.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you do some entertaining this evening, add a new twist to your usual activities and get much better results.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get some new ideas working instead of just thinking about them. First, though, test them for practicality.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Before making a new agreement or revising an old one, first talk it over carefully with all who are involved.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Stop procrastinating and keep the promises you've been putting off. If financial discussions are needed, have them now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This is a good day to take a little trip which will get you out of the rut you're in and make life more interesting.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A job problem can be solved easily today. Be agreeable with your mate. Take no risks while driving.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can accomplish a great deal today, especially with the aid of an old friend who has a good creative flair.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Think hard, use your imagination and find better ways to add to your assets. Pay those bills which have been accumulating.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she can have a wonderfully successful life, provided you encourage him or her to express all of those fine creative talents. Help your progeny to exercise the will to learn and accomplish by giving praise for accomplishments which will build enthusiasm.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will have some very good ideas this morning which deserve serious consideration. Immediately after noon, you will find you can realize these ideas with definite action.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Sheer effort will be required to attain some personal progress. Don't be extravagant this evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Advancement can be quick if you take the advice given to you by someone with a proven track record.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you confide your desires in a friend, you can get the assistance you need. Be sure to show your gratitude.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Show enthusiasm in your work, even though you aren't very enthused, and get some great results.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be alert for changes in your routine which could be beneficial. Someone who's attitude opposes yours has a great idea.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be sure to please your mate before going out with a friend. Thoughtfulness will help maintain domestic harmony.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't start making decisions on a pending project before contacting everyone involved. Don't let work pile up.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be sure to please your mate before going out with a friend. Thoughtfulness will help maintain domestic harmony.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Striving to improve the situation at home will lighten the load in all aspects of your life. Be understanding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Invite some guests into your home who your family enjoy. This will improve the mood there considerably.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to March 20) Use modern technology to help you resolve those property and financial problems. Follow only reliable advice.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be full of impulsive ideas and should be permitted to express them. Your son or daughter may tend to rush into things too quickly, so teach him or her to consider all possibilities before acting. Teach your enviable progeny not to be prejudiced.

Gulf shipping shrugs off tensions

LONDON (AP) — Shipping in the Gulf is booming despite rising tensions in the area, and the resulting jump in insurance rates, shipbrokers have said.

The main reason is a significant increase in oil production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), shipbrokers said.

Kuwait, in particular, has been increasing production, they said.

"For the season, it (chartering) is very high compared with last year or the year before or the year before that," said Mr. David Ralph, manager of the chartering department at shipbrokers Harvey Mullion Co.

"The tanker business, among other things, thrives on uncertainty," Mr. Ralph said. "What's affecting the market at the moment is the uncertainty on how long the Western World can rely on oil coming through the Strait of Hormuz."

Oil buyers are making purchases earlier than normal for the winter, shipbrokers said.

Demand also is strong because oil buyers can still purchase large quantities of crude oil from the Gulf at relatively cheap prices, Mr. Ralph said.

Charters are shipping about 1.3 million barrels per day from Kuwaiti terminals, much more than OPEC's quota of 996,000 barrels a day, according to industry sources. A barrel is 42 gallons.

Gulf oil production has increased to 9.8 million barrels a day from 8.6 million barrels a day four months ago, industry sources said.

As a result, chartering rates were rocketing despite the fact that a number of ships are waiting around for cargoes, shipbrokers said.

Charters are reporting a sharp increase in demand for second-hand tankers, pushing their prices up, with Iranian active buyers.

The strong shipping business isn't likely to be affected by a big jump in insurance rates for cargoes, brokers said.

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